

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-10 AID-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /087 W
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R 101125Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2512

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS KABUL 2953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF, XC, CB, VN, VS

SUBJ: AFGHAN NEWS COVERAGE ON SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: KABUL 2560

1. IN VIEW OF SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED PRIVATELY BY INFLUENTIAL AFGHANS IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC MEDIA REGARDING EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AMERICAN EFFORTS THERE (REFTEL), IT HAS BEEN INTERESTING TO FOLLOW KABUL RADIO AND PRESS COVERAGE OF THAT AREA DURING PAST FEW TRAGIC WEEKS.

2. NEWS REPORTING HAS BEEN SOBER, FACTUAL AND BALANCED, WITH MINIMUM OF EDITORIAL COMMENT. THOSE BITS AND PIECES OF EDITORIAL OPINION WHICH WERE EXPRESSED WERE GENERALLY TO EFFECT THAT UNITED STATES BACKED THE WRONG TEAM, BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT TIME HAS COME TO LOOK TO A NEW ERA OF PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN EVENTS DESCRIBED IN TERMS MORE OF SORROW THAN ANGER.

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3. SIMILARLY, PRESS HAS BEEN WELL BALANCED IN CHOICES OF

FOREIGN EDITORIALISTS FOR RE-PR RT: RECENT EDITION OF
"ANIS" FOR EXAMPLE PRINTED CRITICAL VIEWS OF TASS NEWS
AGENCY AT SAME TIME VIEWS OF DEAN RUSK AND WALT ROSTOW
WERE CITED. OTHER QUOTES HAVE BEEN FROM HERALD TRIBUNE,
NEW YORK TIMES, TIMES OF LONDON AND DAILY TELEGRAPH, WITH
OCCASIONAL USE OF TASS, IZVESTIA AND EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS.
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE HAS BEEN IN KEEPING WITH AFGHAN SOUTHEAST
ASIA INTEREST BALANCED AGAINST CONCERN OVER MIDDLE EAST,
TRAVELS OF PRESIDENT DAOUD, CYPRUS DISPUTE AND OTHERS.

4. MOST NOTABLY THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO CROWNING IN DELIGHT
OVER "REVOLUTIONARY" TRIUMPHS AND IMPUTED TOSS OF AMERICAN
PRESTIGE.

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